

Sirs:

In regards to Proceeding 03-104 regarding BPL. I strongly urge you not to take positive action on this. Do not allow BPL.

During times of emergency such as hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters, amateur radio is the only source of communications available. Because many of the stations providing communication during these times of crisis are running minimal power to small antennas, their signals are somewhat weak. In field tests around the country, the interference from 'birdies' spurious emissions, and 'hash' from the BPL was found to be extremely strong. So strong in fact, that it not only covered up not only weak signals but even average strength signal on various ham bands on 80- 10 meters. These are the same signals which would be needed to be heard to in an emergency. BPL would not allow this and a valuable national resource for emergencies would be severely limited.

The power companies say they would be able to handle any interference problems which would arise from BPL. However, the fact is they can't even handle basic transmission of electricity over these same lines without hundreds of complaints about the RFI produced by faulty insulators, bad grounds, blown lightning arrestors and poor maintenance.

Your agency has many complaints in which the electric companies have been slow to fix and have refused to fix, even when shown the problem source. What makes you think they would behave any differently in the future?

Any spurious signals would now be given hundreds of miles of transmission line to use as an antenna to broadcast harmful interference to licensed stations across the US.

Please do not cave into the special interests interested in the bottom line..to make big profits. The amateur radio operators are not motivated by profits and never have been. This action will be the death knell for the US emergency system.

The Japanese equivalent of the FCC recently disapproved BPL for many of the reasons I have outlined. Please do the same.

Bill Kollenbaum